

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|             |   |                   |                  |
|-------------|---|-------------------|------------------|
| Applicant:  | Helmut FIGGENER et al.  | Confirmation No.: | 3544             |
| Serial No.: | 10/594,554  | Art Unit:         | 1797             |
| Filed:      | September 27, 2006  | Examiner:         | Not yet assigned |
| For:        | SOLID-WALL CENTRIFUGE COMPRISING A WEIR PROVIDED WITH A<br>STATIONARY DEFLECTOR PLATE |                   |                  |

SUBMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.56

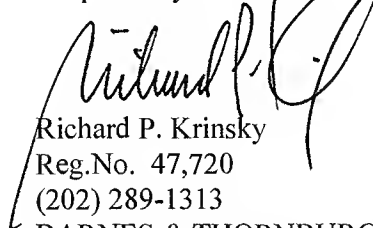
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

To comply with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.56, the following is enclosed: English-Language translation of the International Preliminary Examination Report ("IPER") issued on October 19, 2006 for the corresponding PCT application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg LLP, Deposit Account No. 02-1010 (677/45189).

Respectfully submitted,



Richard P. Krinsky

Reg.No. 47,720

(202) 289-1313

BARNES & THORNBURG LLP

750 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Suite 900

Washington, DC 20006-1313

Enclosure: International Preliminary Examination Report

WRITTEN REPORT OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH  
AGENCY

International File No.  
PCT/EP2005/003399

Field No. V: Substantiated Determination according  
to Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with Respect to Novelty, Inventive  
Activity and Industrial Applicability; Documents and  
Statements for Supporting this Determination

1. Determination

Novelty                      Yes: Claims 2-20  
                                    No: Claim 1

Inventive

Activity:                      Yes: Claims 3-20  
                                    No: Claims 1,2

Industrial

Applicability: Yes: Claims 1-20

2. Documents and

Statements:

See attached page

**Concerning Point V.**

1 Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: FR 2 057 600 A (SAGET PIERRE) May 21, 1971  
(1971-05-21)

D2: FR 2 054 722 A (SAGET PIERRE) May 7, 1971  
(1971-05-07)

D3: WO 01/85349 A (BAKER HUGHES GMBH;  
FELDKAMP, BERNWARD; SCHILP, REINHOLD; MUELLER, RAL)  
November 15, 2001 (2001-11-15)

2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

2.1 The present application does not meet the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT because the object of Claim 1 is not new in accordance with Article 33(2) PCT.

Document D1 discloses (Figure 3) (the references in parentheses relate to this document): Solid-wall screw-type centrifuge (Figure 3), having a centrifugal drum (1) rotatable about a horizontal axis of rotation, which centrifugal drum (1) has a weir (2) for the discharge of a liquid from the centrifugal drum (1), which weir (2) has a passage with several passage openings (4) in a drum lid (2), in the case of which a deflecting disk (outlet collar illustrated in the figure), which is stationary in the operation and widens in sections away from the drum lid (2), is arranged in front of the drum lid (2) outside the centrifugal drum (1), which deflecting disk has an

interior shell whose distance from the axis of rotation is not constant but widens or increases.

2.2 The present invention does not meet the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT because the object of Claim 1 is not based on an inventive activity in accordance with Article 33(3) PCT.

Document D2 discloses (Fig. 1) (the references in parentheses relate to this document): Solid-wall screw-type centrifuge, having a centrifugal drum (1) rotatable about a horizontal axis of rotation, which centrifugal drum (1) has a weir (paroi 15) for the discharge of a liquid from the centrifugal drum (1), which weir (15) has a passage with at least one passage opening in an axial end region, and in the case of which a deflecting disk (collier de reprise 22), which is stationary in the operation and widens at least in sections away from the drum lid (24), is arranged in front of the drum lid outside the centrifugal drum, which deflecting disk has an interior shell whose distance from the axis of rotation is not constant but widens or increases.

2.3 The present invention does not meet the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT because the object of Claim 1 is not based on an inventive activity in accordance with Article 33(3) PCT.

Document D3 discloses (the references in parentheses relate to this document): Solid-wall centrifuge (title), particularly solid-wall screw-type centrifuge (Page 1, Lines 10-13), having a centrifugal drum (10) rotatable about a horizontal axis of rotation, which centrifugal drum (10) has a weir (Page 5, Lines 20-27) for the

discharge of a liquid from the centrifugal drum (10), which weir has a passage with several passage openings (13) in a drum lid (14), in the case of which a deflecting disk, which is stationary in the operation and widens at least in sections away from the drum lid (14), is arranged in front of the drum lid (14) outside the centrifugal drum (10), which deflecting disk has an interior shell whose distance from the axis of rotation is not constant but widens or increases. The annular cup 20, which is situated in a sloping position, of the embodiment shown in Figure 3 forms a deflecting disk for the axially emerging centered product. The interior shell at least of the section of the annular cup situated above the axis of rotation is situated at a distance to the axis of rotation that increases as the distance from the drum lid increases.

Furthermore, in the case of the solid-wall centrifuge according to Document D3, a ring gap is formed between the passage and the wall 18 of the centrifuge housing, which ring gap is at least partially surrounded in its axial dimension by the annular cup 20 in the sloping position (Figure 3) (Claim 2).

3. In contrast, the combination of characteristics of the option with an orifice plate provided outside the centrifugal drum contained in the dependent Claim 2 is neither known from, nor suggested by the present state of the art.